

VZCZCXYZ0020  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHPE #2150 1702219  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 192219Z JUN 07  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5921  
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 4782  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JUN QUITO 1290  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 1335  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC  
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS LIMA 002150

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USTR FOR EEISENSTAT AND BHARMAN  
COMMERCE FOR 4331/IEP/WH/MCAMERON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [OVIP](#) [ECIN](#) [PREL](#) [USTR](#) [PE](#) [CO](#) [EC](#) [BL](#)  
SUBJECT: ANDEAN LEADERS TO WASHINGTON TO LOBBY FOR ATPA  
EXTENSION?

¶1. Freddy Ehlers, Secretary General of the Andean Community (CAN), informed the Ambassador on June 19 that he was attempting to organize a joint visit to Washington by the presidents of Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador to lobby for extension of the Andean Trade Preferences Act (ATPA). Ehlers said the four presidents had agreed to this at the suggestion of Alvaro Uribe during the June 12-14 CAN Summit in Tarija, Bolivia. Ehlers noted the likely dates for this visit would be June 22 or June 25, and that he was coordinating with the four foreign ministries to try to make the trip happen. He said the fallback option was for Ehlers himself to travel in representation of the four countries. If Ehlers travels, he will also request meetings with the executive branch, including USTR, to discuss options for minimizing the impact of any eventual gaps in ATPA coverage.

¶2. Ehlers asked if the State Department could assist in obtaining the appropriate high-level meetings with U.S. congressional leaders. The Ambassador replied that these requests are usually channeled through the foreign embassies in Washington, and recommended that Ehlers contact the four embassies to see which one would be best able to make the appointment requests.

¶3. COMMENT: The CAN has unsuccessfully attempted to organize a joint Washington visit by the presidents of the four ATPA countries in the past. As happened once before, this attempt is likely to fall apart due to difficulties in coordinating agendas and obtaining meetings worthy of four chiefs of state, resulting in the Secretary General being dispatched instead.  
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